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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,782	11/18/2003	Dwayne Need	MFCP.110238	4543
45809	7590	09/11/2006	EXAMINER	
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. (c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 2555 GRAND BOULEVARD KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613			PATEL, MANGLESH M	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2178		
DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<i>Interview Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/715,782	NEED ET AL.	
	Examiner Manglesh M. Patel	Art Unit 2178	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Manglesh M. Patel (USPTO).

(3) Robert Reckers (App Rep).

(2) Cesar Paula (USPTO).

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 09/07/06.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant
2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Atkins.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The amended portion reciting "sentinel value" was described, where the sentinel value acts as a dummy value which the active application cannot use. Although the amendment appears to overcome the art of record, the prior art & specification including the amended portion must be reviewed again in light of the interview. All responses are subjected to further search and consideration.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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TO
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Robert H. Reckers

FROM
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DATE
 SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

I4 Pages Transmitted

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If you experience any problems, please call 713.227.8008 extension **65055**.

COMMENTS:

Re: Our Ref.: MFCP.110238
 Serial No. 10/715,782
 Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRE-PROCESSING INPUT
 EVENTS

Geneva
 Houston
 Kansas City
 London
 Miami
 Orange County
 Overland Park
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September 6, 2006

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Re: Our Ref.: MFCP.110238
United States Patent Appln. 10/715,782
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRE-PROCESSING INPUT
EVENTS

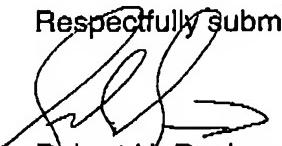
Dear Examiner:

This letter is to confirm our interview on September 7 at 11 a.m. Eastern Time concerning the above captioned application.

During this interview, I anticipate discussion of the pending rejections, as well as potential amendments to the claims. A copy of a proposed amendment is attached hereto. It is my hope that we can agree on allowable subject matter in connection to the pending claims and proceed to issuance.

Thank you for agreeing to discuss this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Reckers
Reg. No. 54,633

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Houston
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London
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New Orleans
Orange County
Overland Park
San Francisco
Tampa
Washington, D.C.

RHR/df
Enclosure

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:	§ ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	MFCP.110238
DWAYNE NEED, ET AL.	§	
SERIAL NO.	§	
10/715,782	§	
FILING DATE:	§ GROUP ART UNIT:	2178
NOVEMBER 18, 2003	§	
TITLE: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRE- PROCESSING INPUT EVENTS	§ EXAMINER:	MANGLESH M. PATEL
	§	

Mail Stop AF
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. § 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Alexandria, VA 22313, on:	
Date	Signature

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action of July 25, 2006, Applicants have responded to the claim rejections and amended the claims.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computerized method for processing a user input event having a code associated therewith, said method comprising:

receiving notification of said input event, said notification including the associated code;

determining whether a text converting component is interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event; and

notifying an application of said input event by providing said application ~~an obfuscation of said code a sentinel value~~ when the text converting component is interested in performing said conversion action with respect to said input event.

2. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, wherein said user input event is communicated via a keyboard, a screen with user input capability, a mouse, and/or a device with voice input capacity.

3. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, wherein said code identifies at least a portion of a letter, a character, an ideograph or a symbol associated with said user input event.

4. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, further comprising communicating said code to the application when the text converting component is not interested in processing said user input event.

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5. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, wherein the text converting component is configured to convert said code to a standard for coding text.
6. (original) The computerized method of Claim 5, wherein said standard is Unicode.
7. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, further comprising revealing said code to the application in response to a request to disclose said code.
8. (original) The computerized method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether a computer component is interested in processing said input event.
9. (original) The computerized method of Claim 8, further comprising obfuscating said code from an application when the computer component is interested in processing said input event.
10. (original) The computerized method of Claim 9, further comprising notifying the application that the computer component is interested in processing said input event.
11. (original) The computerized method of Claim 8, wherein said computer component is an input method editor.
12. (original) The computerized method of Claim 8, wherein said computer component is configured to allow a user to enter at least a portion of a letter, a character, an ideograph or a symbol associated with a desired language.

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13. (previously presented) A computer system for processing a user input event having a code associated therewith, the system comprising:

one or more text converting components;

one or more applications; and

an input manager configured to interact with said one or more text converting components and said one or more applications, wherein said input manager is configured to receive notification of an input event, said notification including the associated code, and wherein said input manager is further configured to prevent said one or more applications from handling said input event by obfuscating said code from the one or more applications when said one or more text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event.

14. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said code is generated by a driver associated with an input device.

15. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said code identifies at least a portion of a letter, a character, an ideograph, or a symbol associated with said user input event.

16. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said user input event is communicated via an input device that is not configured according to a desired language.

17. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said input manager is further configured to communicate said code to one or more applications when none of the text converters are interested in processing said user input event.

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18. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein at least one of said text converters is configured to convert said code to a standard for coding text.
19. (original) The computer system of Claim 18, wherein said standard is Unicode.
20. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said input manager is further configured to notify the one or more applications that at least one of said text converting components is interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event.
21. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said input manager is further configured to reveal said code to one or more of said applications in response to a request to disclose said code.
22. (original) The computer system of Claim 13, further comprising one or more computer components.
23. (original) The computer system of Claim 22, wherein at least one of said computer components is an input method editor.
24. (original) The computer system of Claim 22, wherein said input manager is configured to obfuscate said code from the one or more applications when one or more of said computer components are interested in handling said input event.
25. (previously presented) An input manager embodied on one or more computer-readable media and executable on a computer, said input manager comprising:

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a user input component for obtaining data indicating a user input event having a code associated therewith, said data including the associated code; a text converter interface component for determining whether one or more text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event; and an application interface component which prevents an application from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from said application when one or more of said text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event.

26. (original) The input manager of Claim 25, wherein said code identifies at least a portion of a letter, a character, an ideograph, or a symbol associated with said user input event.

27. (original) The input manager of Claim 25, further comprising a computer component interface component for determining whether one or more computer components are interested in handling said user input event.

28. (original) The input manager of Claim 27, wherein said application interface component obfuscates said code from the application when one or more of said computer components are interested in handling said input event.

29. (original) The input manager of Claim 27, wherein one or more of said computer components are input method editors.

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30. (previously presented) A computer system for processing a user input event having a code associated therewith, the system comprising:

means for receiving notification of a user input event having a code associated therewith, said notification including the associated code;

means for converting said code to a value indicating a character or a symbol;

one or more applications; and

means for interacting with said one or more applications and said converting means in response to notification of said user input event, wherein said means for interacting are configured to prevent said one or more applications from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from the one or more applications when said converting means are interested in performing a conversion action with respect to said input event.

31. (original) The computer system of Claim 30, further comprising means for editing an input method.

32. (original) The computer system of Claim 31, wherein said means for interacting are further configured to obfuscate said code from the one or more applications when said editing means are interested in handling said input event.

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 – 32 are currently pending.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkin, U.S. Publ. No. 2004/0181776 ("Atkin"). Applicants respectfully traverse the pending rejections.

Claim 13 – 32

Claims 13 – 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkin. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Atkin does not teach or suggest "an application interface component which prevents an application from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from said application when one or more of said text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action," as required by independent claim 25. Similarly, Atkin does not teach or suggest an input manager that is "configured to prevent one or more applications from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from the one or more applications when said converting means are interested in performing a conversion action," as required by independent claims 13 and 30.

Atkin discloses a system for providing Unicode support in legacy operating systems. Atkin, Abstract. Because legacy operating systems may not be equipped to handle a wide variety of languages, the system of Atkin includes an input method editor (IME) configured to convert an input into its Unicode value. An application that is Unicode capable can then receive the Unicode value corresponding to an input and can make use of the input. As explained by Atkin, "In this way, the operating system is bypassed so that the operating system

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need not be equipped with an input method editor in order for Unicode to be used with a Unicode capable application.” Atkin, para. 10.

As previously mentioned, independent claims 13, 25 and 30 require preventing “an application from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from said application when one or more of said text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action.” To teach this claim element, the Office Action relies on Atkin in the case where the target application is not Unicode capable. The Office Action states, “[I]n the case where the application does not support Unicode then an obfuscated version of the input is received by the application.” The Office Action explains, “This obfuscated version is simply the non-unicode input.”

Providing a non-Unicode input to an application does not teach or suggest the claim elements at issue for at least three different reasons. First, providing an application a non-Unicode input in no way teaches “obfuscating said code from said application.” When an active application is not Unicode capable, Atkins takes no action with respect to a keyboard event and simply passes the event on for normal processing. Atkin, para. 37. Figure 6 illustrates this aspect— if the application does not support Unicode, the process ends without any further processing. As explained by Atkin, if the application is not capable of handling Unicode inputs, “the operation terminates with keyboard events being processed in a normal manner as if the [input method editor] were not present.” Atkin, para. 37 (emphasis added). Accordingly, the providing of the non-Unicode input does not involve any obfuscation of a keyboard input. Rather, Atkin simply processes the input event “in a normal manner.” If the claimed “obfuscating” of the code is to have any meaning at all, it must include some hiding of the

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underlying value. Handling an input event in a normal manner in no way suggests “obfuscating” or hiding the input event’s value from an application.

Secondly, providing an application a non-Unicode input in no way teaches preventing “an application from handling said user input event.” Atkin teaches a “bypass” in which an input method editor is provided to convert an input event into a Unicode value when a Unicode capable application is to receive the input event. Atkin, para. 31. If the application at issue is not Unicode capable, the bypass of Atkin is not utilized, and the system processes the event “in a normal manner.” Atkin, para. 37. Importantly, the system of Atkins takes no action to prevent a non-Unicode capable application from processing the input event. If the application can handle the input event, then such handling will proceed as normal. In short, Atkins, by providing a non-Unicode value, in no way prevents “an application from handling” an event.

Third, the claim elements at issue provide the obfuscated code “when one or more of said text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action.” Atkin, however, provides a *converted Unicode value* when a converting component is interested in performing a conversion action. As explained by Atkin, “If the application 410 is capable of receiving Unicode input, the keyboard hook module 440 forwards the keyboard events to the keystroke conversion module 460.” Atkin, para 37. The keystroke conversion module can then convert the keyboard event into its Unicode representation. Atkin, para. 39. Such a *converted Unicode value*, of course, is not an obfuscated code. So, in contrast to the claims, Atkins teaches providing a converted Unicode value when the conversion module is interested in performing a conversion action, not an obfuscated code as required by claims 13, 25 and 30.

For at least these reasons, Atkin fails to teach or suggest preventing “an application from handling said user input event by obfuscating said code from said application

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when one or more of said text converting components are interested in performing a conversion action," as required by independent claims 13, 25 and 30. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit independent claims 13, 25 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants further submit that dependent claims 14 - 24, which depend from claim 13, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 13. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 26 - 29, which depend from claim 25, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 25. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 31 and 32, which depend from claim 30, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 30.

Claim 1 – 12

Claims 1 – 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkin. Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that Atkin does not teach or suggest "notifying an application of said input event by providing said application a sentinel value when the text converting component is interested in performing said conversion action," as required by amended independent claim 1.

Atkin has been previously discussed. In one aspect, Atkin teaches a "bypass" in which a converted Unicode value is communicated to a Unicode capable application. Atkin, para. 31. Alternately, when the active application is not Unicode capable, Atkin does not take any action with respect to a keyboard event and simply passes the event on for normal processing. Atkin, para. 37. In either case, Atkin in no way teaches or suggests utilizing a sentinel value to notify an application of an input event.

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In contrast, independent claim 1, as amended, recites "notifying an application of said input event by providing said application a sentinel value when the text converting component is interested in performing said conversion action." Atkin teaches the providing of an unconverted input value or a converted Unicode value in response to an input event. Atkin does not teach notifying an application of an input event by providing a sentinel value. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2- 12, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Claims 1 – 32 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Reckers
Reg. No. 54,633

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